

26. RECORD OF *HYPTIS CAPITATA* JACQ. (LABIATAE) FROM PENINSULAR INDIA

(With a text-figure)

Hyptis capitata Jacq. in Coll. i. 102. Ic. Rav. I. t. 114. 1786; Prain in Bengal Plants 633.1903 (reptd. 1963); Mukerjee in Rec. Bot. Surv. India 14(1): 63.1940.

The collection of this interesting Labiatae (Lamiaceae) from Kottayam, Kottayam District, Kerala State (Kept at MH) records its occurrence for the first time from Peninsular India. Hitherto it has been recorded from lower Bengal and Andaman Islands. Prain (1903) and Mukerjee (1940) have dealt with this plant in detail. As the plant is poorly known in Peninsular India and is an exotic, introduced from America, it is thought that an illustrated (*see* text-fig. on p. 201) description will be of use.

Herbs, reaching about 3 m height; branches quadrangular, pubescent. Leaves 10-15 × 5-8

cm, broadly ovate-oblong, hairy, apex acute, base tapering, nerves 6-8 pairs; petioles upto 5 cm long, hairy. Flowers in heads, axillary, peduncles larger than floral head; bracts ovate-lanceolate, reflexed. Sepals 5 lobed, lobes subulate, densely hairy, shorter than the tube. Petals white, larger than sepals, lobes subequal. Stamens 4, didynamous; filaments free, anther cells confluent. Disc present entire. Ovary 4-partite, bicarpellate. Style shortly bifid at tip. Nutlets 4, 2 × 1 mm, ovoid, smooth, not winged, basal scar small.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Dr. J. Joseph, Regional Botanist, Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore, for help and suggestions.

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November 2, 1977.

REFERENCES

- MUKERJEE, S. K. (1940): A revision of the Labiatae of the Indian Empire. *Rec. Bot. Surv. India* 14 (1).
PRAIN, D. (1903): Bengal Plants. (reprint 1963).

27. A NEW DISTRIBUTIONAL RECORD FOR *DISTEMON INDICUM* WEDD. FROM TEHRI GARHWAL

Distemon indicum Wedd. Monogr. Urt. 551, t. 20. 1856, J. D. Hooker in Fl. Brit. Ind. 5: 588, 1888, *D. grossum* Wedd. in DC. Prodr. 16, 1: 235, 1869.

A slender annual herb. Leaves alternate,

petioled; toothed. Stem 60-90 cm. Flowers monoecious in small bracteate 3-fid, androgynous clusters which form long terminal spikes. Bracts broadly ovate, acuminate concave. Male flowers minute tipped with hooked hairs,

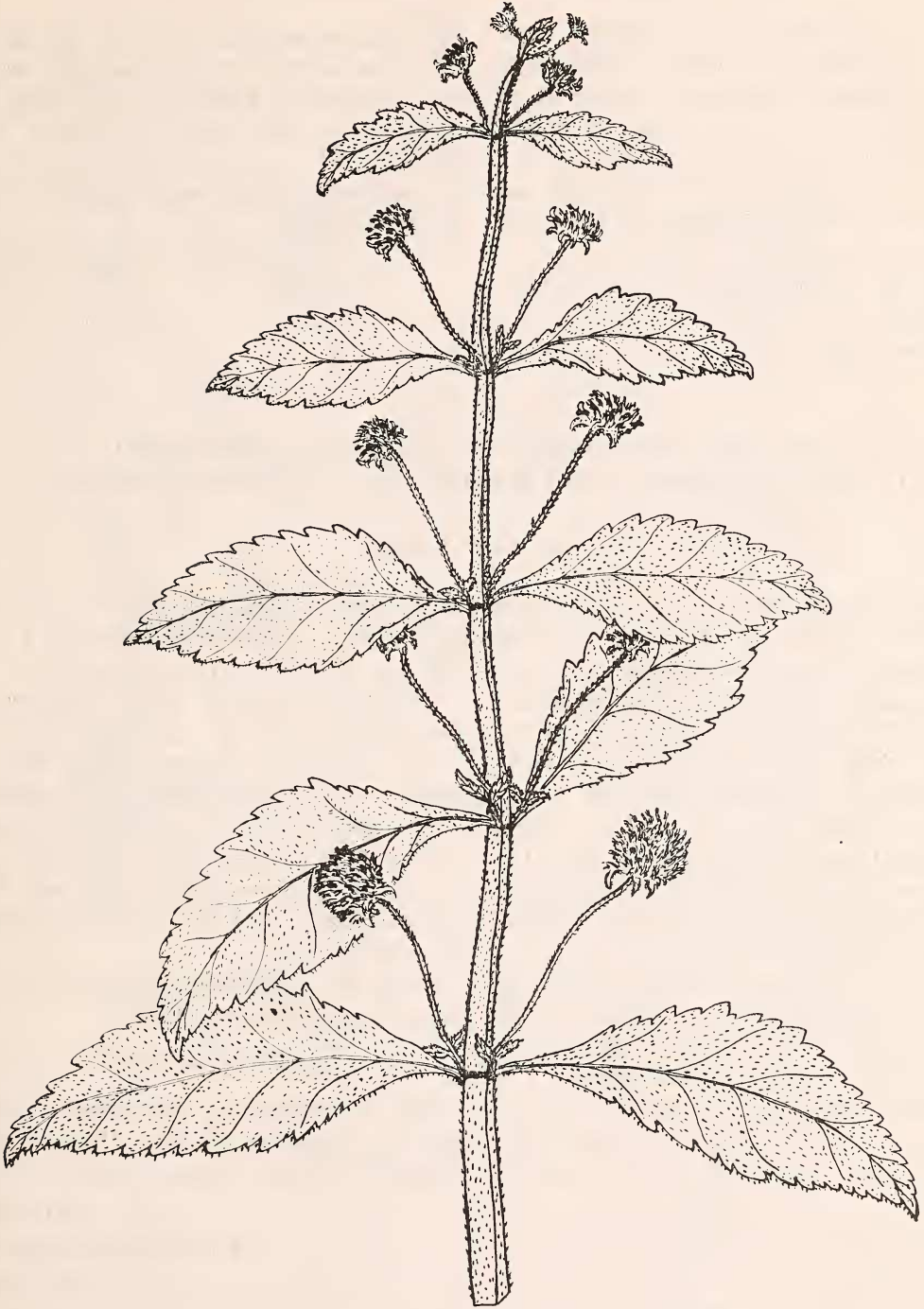


Fig. 1. *Hyptis capitata* Jacq. (for description see p. 200).

female strigose. Achene broadly ovoid, beaked.

I recently surveyed the area of Tehri Garhwal and observed this species growing as an undergrowth of *Adhatoda zeylanica* Medic. (Date 28.iii.76, Dhyani 278). Further the distribution of the taxon is not widespread and its migration to the area seems to be recent.

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August 17, 1977.

This species has been collected for the first time from south Garhwal. The plant was reported by M. B. Raizada in 1939 from Dehra Dun (Ind. For. Reco. (n.s.) Bot. 1: 5, 1939).

I acknowledge my sincere gratitude to Prof. S. D. Sharma.

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28. ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *GYMNEMA CUSPIDATUM*
(THUNB.) K. SCHUM. (ASCLEPIADACEAE) IN MAHARASHTRA

(With six text-figures)

Though Trimen (1895) noted *Gymnema cuspidatum* (Thunb.) K. Schum. as endemic to Sri Lanka, it has been subsequently collected by Woodrow (1898) from Dharwar district and over 60 years later by Santapau (1962) from Jog falls, both from Karnataka. However, except for a specimen from Sri Lanka there are no specimens in any of the Indian herbaria and apparently it is quite rare. During the recent explorations of Bhandara district, Maharashtra State, it has been recollected from Chorkamal forest.

In view of the rarity and absence of any published illustrations for the plant, a drawing of the plant (see text-figures on p. 203) is given along with a brief description.

Gymnema cuspidatum (Thunb.) K. Schum. in Pfam. 4(2): 284, 1895, Sant. in *Univ. Bombay Bot. Mem.* No. 4: 50, 1962. *Gymnema*

pergylarioides (Thw.) Wt. & Gard. ex Hook. f. in FBI. 4: 32, 1883, Woodrow in *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 5(12): 167, 1898.

Twining undershrub. Leaves acuminate at the apex rounded at the base. Cymes umbellate, peduncles 1-2 cm. arising from between the petioles. Calyx lobes glandular within, lobes 2.5 × 1.5 cm. Corona of 5 double villous ridges, adnate to the lower half of the corolla tube. Gymnostegium 3-5 mm. Ovary glabrous-follicles 5-7 cm., cylindrical, tapering to a sharp point.

Fl. & Frt.: September-October. *Loc.*: Chorkamal forest, Malhotra 144660.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are thankful to the Deputy Director, and the Regional Botanist, Western Circle, Botanical Survey of India, Poona for facilities.

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August 22, 1977.